

In February, the House passed H.R. 99 which extended the AIP until the end of fiscal year 1999. The other body was unwilling to agree to a 6-month extension and sent to the House a 2-month extension. The House approach is still the preferable one, but with AIP due to lapse on March 31, a 2-month extension is better than letting the program expire.

It is disturbing to me that the other body continues to play political games with AIP. AIP funds critical safety, security, and capacity projects at airports throughout this country. The stop-go-stop approach taken by the other body to this issue has caused administrative inefficiencies at the FAA and, more importantly, doubt for airports in moving forward on projects. I am particularly concerned about northern states where the lack of commitment to a full-year program threatens the construction season.

It is my hope that another extension will not be needed since the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on March 18th passed H.R. 1000, the Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century, known as AIR-21. With leadership support and assistance, we should be able to move this bill forward for floor consideration shortly.

H.R. 1000 meets four pressing challenges facing the aviation system: Capacity at our nation's airports; accelerating the modernization of the air traffic control system; promoting competition in the airline industry; and increasing safety in the aviation system.

We have tremendous needs especially in the airport system: renovating existing runways and taxiways; helping communities cope with noise problems; increasing capacity through projects like San Francisco's \$1 billion runway project; and meeting airport requirements so the smaller airports can take advantage of technological breakthroughs like GPS/WAAS. AIR-21 meets these airport and other challenges and I look forward to working with Members of the House on its passage.

In the short-term, this extension is needed and I ask all Members to support S. 643.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate bill, as follows:

S. 643

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Interim Federal Aviation Administration Authorization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 48103 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking from "\$1,205,000,000" through the period and inserting "\$1,607,000,000 for the 8-month period beginning October 1, 1998."

(b) OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY.—Section 47104(c) of such title is amended by striking "March" and inserting "May".

(c) LIQUIDATION-OF-CONTRACT AUTHORIZATION.—The Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 is amended by striking the last proviso under the heading "Grants-in-Aid for Airports, (Liquidation of Contract Authoriza-

tion), (Airport and Airway Trust Fund)" and inserting "Provided further, That not more than \$1,300,000,000 of funds limited under this heading may be obligated before the enactment of a law extending contract authorization for the Grants-in-Aid for Airports Program beyond May 31, 1999."

SEC. 3. AIRWAY FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

Section 48101(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

"(3) \$2,131,000,000 for fiscal year 1999."

SEC. 4. FAA OPERATIONS.

Section 106(k) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking from "\$5,158,000,000" through the period and inserting "\$5,632,000,000 for fiscal year 1999."

SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF THE CAP ON DISCRETIONARY FUND.

Section 47115(g) is amended by striking paragraph (4).

SEC. 6. EXTENSION OF AVIATION INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Section 44310 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking "March" and inserting "May".

SEC. 7. MILITARY AIRPORT PROGRAM.

Section 124 of the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of 1996 is amended by striking subsection (d).

SEC. 8. DISCRETIONARY FUND DEFINITION.

(a) AMENDMENT OF SECTION 47115.—Section 47115 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "25" in subsection (a) and inserting "12.5"; and

(2) by striking the second sentence in subsection (b).

(b) AMENDMENT OF SECTION 47116.—Section 47116 of such title is amended—

(1) by striking "75" in subsection (a) and inserting "87.5";

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) in subsection (b) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and inserting before subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, the following:

"(1) one-seventh for grants for projects at small hub airports (as defined in section 41731 of this title); and

"(2) the remaining amounts based on the following:"

SEC. 9. RELEASE OF 10 PERCENT OF MWAAs FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding sections 49106(c)(6)(C) and 49108 of title 49, United States Code, the Secretary of Transportation may approve an application of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (an application that is pending at the Department of Transportation on March 17, 1999) for expenditure or obligation of up to \$30,000,000 of the amount that otherwise would have been available to the Authority for passenger facility fee/airport development project grants under subchapter I of chapter 471 of such title.

(b) LIMITATION.—The Authority may not execute contracts, for applications approved under subsection (a), that obligate or expend amounts totalling more than the amount for which the Secretary may approve applications under that subsection, except to the extent that funding for amounts in excess of that amount are from other authority or sources.

The Senate bill was ordered to be read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1930

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on S. 643.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the name of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHN PORTER) from House Joint Resolution 37, the Tax Limitation Constitutional Amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

EXTENDING SELECT COMMITTEE ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AND MILITARY/COMMERCIAL CONCERNS WITH PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules be discharged from further consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 129) extending the Select Committee on U.S. National Security and Military/Commercial Concerns With the People's Republic of China, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 129

Resolved,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Section 2(f)(1) of House Resolution 5, One Hundred Sixth Congress, agreed to January 6, 1999, is amended by striking "April 1, 1999" and inserting "April 30, 1999 (or, if earlier, the date on which the Select Committee completes its activities)".

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SCARBOROUGH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCARBOROUGH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)